

Nature Notes

For the week of
April 6 - 12

From your friends at Saint John's Arboretum!

Spring Flooding in Minnesota



Photo courtesy of Shane Miller

Sometimes April showers bring more than just May flowers...

Floods are simply imbalances in the water cycle!

Four factors often lead to flooding in places like the Red River basin:

- Saturated soil that cannot absorb any more water
 - Heavy winter snowfall that lingers into spring
 - Rain on melting snow, which only increases melting speeds
 - A melting pattern that includes consecutive days of warmer, above average temperatures
- This year's cooler temperatures have prevented many rivers from reaching record heights.
- But floodwaters in Shakopee, MN have still managed to reach the Renegade roller-coaster in Valleyfair!

Sources:

- <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/infocus/floods/science.html>
- <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/collections/special/2011/floods/>

Jokes...so bad they're funny!

Q: Which dinosaur slept all day?
A: The dino-snore!

Q: What kind of bee hums and drops things?
A: A fumble bee!

Q: What do you call a cheerful flea?
A: A hop-timist!

2011 Earth Week Events

Sunday, April 10

*Hogroast at 2pm on Watab

Enjoy a roasted, locally-grown hog, music, games and even more food for FREE!

Monday, April 11

*Solar Farm Tour

4:30-5:30pm
Curious about renewable energy on campus? Email [Sarah Gainey](mailto:Sarah.Gainey@csbsju.edu) to reserve your spot on the tour!

Tuesday, April 12

*FREE Tree Give Away!

9am-4:00pm, while supplies last!

New Science 104

Come get a FREE tree! One tree per person. Thanks to the Environmental Studies Department!

*Sustainability Forum

"Cool Clear Water" 4:15-5:15pm

Bother Willie's Pub

Wednesday, April 13

*Bike to Class

Check out bikes from the OLC or HCC and enjoy a 40-minute cruise on the Wobegon Trail to your next class! One way rentals available!

*Biology in a Bottle

Create your own micro-ecosystem in the Natural History Museum in the New Science Center! Email [Bryan Sieh](mailto:Bryan.Sieh@csbsju.edu) to reserve your materials!

Thursday, April 14

*Return of the Fish

Don't miss the annual return of the Koi to the Fish Pond at CSB! The celebration begins in Mary Commons at 3:00pm and the parade to the pond will start at 4pm!

*SALD Earth Week Bingo

8:30-9:30pm

Friday, April 15

*Shuttle Bus to Vertical Endeavors Climbing Wall

Sign up at the OLC or Climbing Wall to reserve your spot on the bus!

Other Upcoming Arboretum Events

Arboretum Hiring for Student Naturalists

Love working with kids and being outside? Have experience leading groups of kids outdoors? Then apply for the Student Naturalist positions open for the 2011-12 school year. Check out the [job description](#), then apply [online](#). Interviews start next week so apply today!

Maple Syrup Season!

Maple Syrup Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the syruping process at Saint John's. We need help with everything from tapping trees and sap collection, to cooking syrup and working at the Festivals. [Learn more](#) about how you can get involved and sign up on our [volunteer list](#)!

MN Natural History Lecture

"Experiencing Nature: The Story Behind the Images"

Presented by: Tony Peroutky, Nature Photographer

April 18, 2011, 6:30-8:30pm

Join us for part three of this season's lecture series featuring local nature photographers! Tony's presentation features photographs from Minnesota to Montana, with a storyline that it's not always about "capturing the image." He will share his stories behind the photographs—the challenges, surprises and overall enjoyment, as well as provide tips to improve your own nature photography experiences.

Forest Firefighter Training

April 21, 2011

Want to add certified forest firefighter to your resume? Just take a course this spring offered by The Nature Conservancy with assistance from MN DNR, and Saint John's Arboretum! Details for training location and [registration form](#) are online.

Fruit at the Finish Triathlon

Saturday, April 30

Compete individually or as a team as you bike, run, and swim your way to the Fruit at the Finish! [Register online](#) and bring your payment to the OLC by April 27 or [register and pay online at the Arboretum Marketplace](#)!

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, please e-mail your name and graduation year to: arboretum@csbsju.edu.

We'll be in touch...

Your friends at the Arboretum

It's your backyard, so get out and play!

***Nature Notes is a weekly publication designed to keep you informed about exciting events offered by the Arboretum!

Saint John's Arboretum
104 New Science Building
Collegeville, MN 56321-2000
320.363.3136

www.csbsju.edu/arboretum